

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. VII. No. 12, March 1909

From Some Editorial Notes.

County Secretaries.—A good many County Medical Society secretaries do not seem to realize the importance of their position. On the county secretary really depends the whole success or failure of the county society, and on the county society is founded the whole structure of medical organization—the State Society and the American Medical Association. The good that these organizations are doing in California and in the whole United States is incalculable. . . .

From an article on "The Fauical Tonsils Considered from a Medical and Surgical Standpoint" by Louis C. Deane, M. D., San Francisco.

. . . Treat the subject as lightly as you will, nevertheless the prominent position of the faucial tonsils at the orifice of the respiratory and alimentary tracts, their exposed position to foreign substances, their close relation to the cervical lymphatics and their great vascularity gives them an importance not easily ignored. One remarkable feature is that these organs so ready of access and so easily observed have remained a kind of medical enigma. . . .

From an article on "The Leukemias and Allied Diseases" by Henry Harris, M. D., San Francisco.

It is my purpose to consider a group of diseases not very often encountered but one of peculiar interest, both from the pathological and the clinical standpoint. The etiology of this group is still a matter of doubt, though more and more observers are granting the point that we are dealing with clinical malignancy and possibly pathological malignancy. . . .

From an article on "The Influence of Climate Upon Tuberculosis—With Remarks on the Climate of Colfax, California," by Robert A. Peers, M. D., Colfax.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: Your chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Dr. Philip King Brown, suggested that, in addressing you on the subject of tuberculosis, I refer to our Colfax climate in such cases. . . .

* A Twenty-Five Years Ago column, made up of excerpts from the official journal of the California Medical Association of twenty-five years ago, is printed in each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The column is one of the regular features of the Miscellany Department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and its page number will be found on the front cover index.

Sodium Salicylate and Magnesium in Treatment of Rheumatic Fever and Arthritis.—The studies of Foxe indicate that doses of 90 grains (6 grams) a day of sodium salicylate when combined with 60 grains (4 grams) of magnesium oxid give results in acute infectious arthritis and rheumatic fever equivalent to those obtained when doses of 150 grains (10 grams) of sodium salicylate, given with 150 grains of sodium bicarbonate, are used. However, this does not necessarily mean that the combined drug (magnecylate) is a grain-for-grain equivalent therapeutically to sodium salicylate. Equivalence or nonequivalence of such effects will only be known when physicians have decided on the minimal effective dose of salicylate. The toxic effect of salicylates, combined with either magnesium oxid or sodium bicarbonate, is minimal. In this study only moderate doses were employed, and cases with cardiac complications were excluded.—*West Virginia Medical Journal*, May, 1933.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

On February 3, 1934, Governor Rolph appointed George Thomason, M. D., member of the Board of Medical Examiners, for a term ending January 15, 1938, vice Charles T. Sturgeon, M. D., resigned.

The always active Earl Warren, District Attorney of Alameda County, with Guard Darrah, District Attorney of San Joaquin County, members of the San Francisco Police Department, and the Special Agent of the Board of Medical Examiners, joined in an active campaign against the hospital association "racket," and recently raided the San Francisco office of Harry Kramer, who, according to the records of the Board of Medical Examiners, is said to operate about six of these so-called hospital associations, concerning which numerous complaints regarding alleged irregularities have come to the Board of Medical Examiners, as well as the State Insurance Commissioner. Harry Kramer and his associate, Harry Blank, also known as Harry Blankenstein, are reported held under heavy cash bail in Alameda County. Other "salesmen" connected with this outfit, against whom warrants were issued, are said to be E. L. Knotts, C. H. Wolf, and V. A. Klingberg. Reports relate that Kramer's books showed \$70,000 representing the premiums on contracts sold, whereas his bank account on the date of the raid was said to show \$140 on hand. He is reported to maintain an office at 600 Roosevelt Building, Los Angeles.

The "International Metropolitan Health and Accident Association," listed as one of the many so-called "hospital associations," formerly located in the Loew-Warfield Building, San Francisco, and later said to have moved to 127 Montgomery Street, assertedly managed by John C. Moore, was recently featured in the newspapers through the reported arrest in Stockton of Max Pinsley, Scott Corlis, alias J. W. Ewing, E. L. Knotts and M. J. Griffin. The records show that on January 15, 1934, Max Pinsley pleaded guilty in the Superior Court of Oakland to one count of grand theft and was sentenced to San Quentin prison for a period of one to ten years, which no doubt will result in the dismissal of the charge pending against him in Stockton.

Well equipped with professional cards on which were printed the names of various licensed physicians in several states, used by him in masquerading as a reputable physician, Earl George Harris, said to be a former attorney of Buffalo, New York, was on February 4, 1934, reported arrested at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, for issuing bad checks. In his possession was found an assortment of checks on which he had printed the names and addresses of physicians licensed in other states and also innumerable blank cards, some bearing the name of the "American College of Surgeons" and another lot bearing the name of the "American Medical Society," many of which Harris had assertedly filled in under his various aliases, to be used in furtherance of his bad check scheme.

When Peter Linart, alias Peter Linard, alias Peter Zuborsky, was arrested in San Francisco on an asserted charge of stealing twenty-one microscopes from

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

(Continued in front advertising section, Page 12)